

OCTOBER 2025

From the Editors

A warm welcome to the October edition.

The weather has certainly turned. At the time of writing Storm Amy is upon us bringing high winds and pleantiful rain (good for the reservoirs!)

It has just been announced that the new Archbishop of Canterbury designate is the Rt Rev Dame Sarah Mullaly, the first woman to be chosen for the role. We wish her success in this most important role in the life of the church and the life of the nation and he global Anglican Communion. Her confirmation will be in January 2026.

This month brings our Harvest Service on the 12th October at 10.15. If you can please bring non-perishable items which will be donated to Penwortham Foodbank. The food-bank which is open evey Friday morning is thriving but always needs more donations. See page 3 for the sorts of things it needs.

We wish you all a happy October. May the weather be kind to us and may we be kind to one another.

The Leaves

The leaves had a wonderful frolic.
They danced to the wind's loud song,
They whirled, and they floated, and
scampered,
They circled and flew along.

The North Wind is calling, is calling,
And we must whirl round and round,
And then when our dancing is ended
We'll make a warm quilt for the
ground.

Author unknown



New Build

At our most recent PCC meeting the new extension plans were discussed. While we have sufficient funds to pay for the extension to be built the longer terms costs may become a problem (i.e. utilities, furniture and so on). Rachel and David Tuke presented the issues with an impressive Powerpoint presentation allowing the problems to be clearly understood. At the meeting it was decided to try to obtain Heritage Lottery Funding. This is a complex process needing great attention to detail. The first step is to complete and present an Expression of Interest (EOI). To this end someone who has experience in this field has offered their services. They have helped other churches in the diocese and they were successful in obtaining funding.

Churchyard

The contractor have removed all the necessary soil and gravestones to allow work on rebuilding the retaining wall to start.

Cop Lane School

The school is due a SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist School) inspection in this academic year. The headteacher, staff and governors are hard at work ensuring all the necessary activities are completed. It is not known when the inspection will take place so work has to be done now in case we have an early inspection. Please pray for all involved as they seek to ensure that Cop Lane School is recognised as a distinctive church school in which the Christian values are fully expressed.



PENWORTHAM FOODBANK

**PENWORTHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE
KINGSFOLD DRIVE PR1 9EQ**

EVERY FRIDAY
BETWEEN 0930 AND NOON**

**DONATIONS OF NON-PERISHABLE FOODS ARE
URGENTLY REQUIRED**

We thank all who have donated food in the past but we need further supplies: particularly pasta, pasta sauce, tins of soup, tins of baked beans and canned fruit

**BRING YOUR DONATIONS TO CHURCH, OR TO THE
FOODBANK ON A FRIDAY MORNING**

OR

ARRANGE A BANK TRANSFER/STANDING ORDER* TO:

Account name: Churches Together in Penwortham
Sort Code: 30-96-85 Account No: 00415955 (Lloyds Bank)

OR

MAKE A DONATION (cheque or cash)*

*We are registered for Gift Aid so if you are able to make a financial donation and are a UK taxpayer then please let us have your contact details so we can arrange for a Gift Aid form to be sent to you.

**opening times vary over the Christmas period

Gaia at Blackburn Cathedral

Luke Jerram's Gaia will be unveiled at Blackburn Cathedral on Monday 6 October, and we'd love to welcome you to Blackburn Cathedral to see it.

Gaia will be on display at Blackburn Cathedral from 6th October - 16th November.

Throughout the exhibition there is no charge for daytime entry to the Cathedral, although a suggested donation of £5 per person is encouraged which will go towards the cost of hosting the event and the upkeep of Blackburn Cathedral, helping us stage more events like this and keeping our doors open for all.



Gaia is a touring artwork by UK artist Luke Jerram.

Measuring seven metres in diameter, Gaia features 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of the Earth's surface*. The artwork provides the opportunity to see our planet on this scale, floating in three-dimensions.

The installation creates a sense of the Overview Effect, which was first described by author Frank White in 1987. Common features of the experience for astronauts are a feeling of awe for the planet, a profound understanding of the interconnection of all life, and a renewed sense of responsibility for taking care of the environment.

**SHARP WORDS MAKE MORE WOUNDS THAN
SURGEONS CAN HEAL. - ANON**

Bishop of Blackburn appoints new Bishop's Chaplain

Diocesan Bishop Rt Rev Philip North, the Bishop of Blackburn, has welcomed his new Bishop's Chaplain who is based at the Bishop's House office in Salesbury in the Ribble Valley.

The new Chaplain is Rev Dr Andy Meeson, 39, originally from Wellington in Telford and now living in Leyland. Most recently Andy served as Vicar of St John's in Leyland and also as Area Dean of Leyland Deanery. Over the past decade, Andy has combined parish ministry with theological education and biblical scholarship, recently earning a PhD in Hebrew Bible.



He is married to Amy and the couple have five children aged 6 to 14.

Before entering ministry Andy was a Foundation Doctor, working at East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust.

Bishop Philip licensed Andy as his Chaplain during lunchtime Eucharist after a recent meeting of the Bishop's Vision and Strategy Team (VST) at Whalley Abbey. The licensing took place in the Abbey House Chapel in the presence of the VST Team as well as Andy's new colleagues from the Bishop's House office and members of the Abbey community. Speaking today Bishop Philip said: "I am very pleased that Andy has responded to God's call to serve as my Chaplain and to contribute to the work of Bishop's House in its service to the Diocese. "He joins Louise, Esther, Susan and Keith - and I continue to be deeply thankful for the way they work together to uphold the ministry of the Diocesan Bishop. I'm confident Andy will settle in quickly and bring real value to our shared work in the coming months."

Andy added: "I am delighted to be taking on this new role at such an exciting time for our Diocese. As we head towards our Diocesan centenary in 2026; the culmination of our current 'Vision 2026' we also look forward to a significant new phase supported by a fresh and ambitious vision.

"Being part of the Bishop's Vision and Strategy Team as we collectively work together on all these projects is a great privilege. I am excited for what lies ahead as Bishop's Chaplain."

Bishops' statement on the appointment of the new Archbishop of Canterbury

Today is a significant day in the life of our church with the announcement of Rt Revd Sarah Mullally as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury.

We offer her our congratulations and prayers as she steps up into this demanding role within the Church of England and the global Anglican Communion.

Bishop Sarah brings with her rich and varied experience, both from her episcopal ministry to the Diocese of Exeter and London and in an outstanding career within the NHS. She will bring wisdom, faithfulness and courage to a testing national and international role.



We look forward to sharing in our partnership in the Gospel and working with Bishop Sarah in the years ahead to ensure that the Church is a source of unity and joy for a divided world.

Jesus Christ is the Head of our church, and we will work alongside our new Archbishop as together we declare the good news of his love to our county and nation.

Rt Rev. Philip North, Bishop of Blackburn
Rt Rev. Dr Jill Duff, Bishop of Lancaster
Rt Rev. Dr Joe Kennedy, Bishop of Burnley

Vatican seeks to become world's first carbon-neutral state

The Vatican has signed an agreement with Italy over a 100-million-euro project which will make it fully reliant on solar energy.

The Vatican will obtain its electricity from a new agrivoltaics plant at Santa Maria di Galeria. The 1000-acre site north of Rome is currently home to Vatican Radio's transmission towers.

The agreement was signed by the Vatican's Secretary for Relations with States, Archbishop Paul Gallagher, and the Italian Ambassador to the Holy See, Francesco Di Nitto.

The Vatican says the project has been designed to "to respect the natural landscape, minimise the environmental impact, and protect the cultural and archaeological heritage".

The initiative has been hailed as proof of strong bilateral relations between the Holy See and Italy, "reflecting a shared commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change". The Vatican will donate any excess electricity to the local community.

Papal appeals against climate change and environmental degradation were a feature of the 12-year pontificate of the late Pope Francis, who unveiled plans for the Santa Maria project in an apostolic letter, *Fratello Sole*, last year.

Millions are still available to help Listed Places of Worship

Almost three-quarters of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme funding remains available for the 2025-26 period.

With seven months still to go in which applications can be made, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) says that - of the £23 million available — £5,498,850 has been used to date, and there is currently £591,237 worth of claims in progress.

The 2025-26 scheme will close on 31 March 2026, or once the £23-million cap has been reached, whichever is earlier. According to Church House, at least 38 churches and cathedrals are undertaking initiatives at an estimated cost of more than £2 million.

There is no better proof of friendship than to help our friends with their burdens. - *Augustine*

Church-run bereavement course having ‘profound and wide-reaching impact’

A church-run bereavement course is having a “profound and wide-reaching impact on adults of all ages,” according to a recent independent evaluation. The Bereavement Journey, run by the Christian charity AtaLoss, is “addressing a national need for bereavement support”, and is “ideal for the significant majority — 85-90 per cent — of bereaved people who do not require or will not benefit from a clinical intervention”.

AtaLoss was founded in 2016 by the Revd Yvonne Tulloch, a former Canon for Mission at Coventry Cathedral, whose husband died suddenly in 2008. She says: “We are a society where people have grown up not expecting death and where we have lost the art of support.”

The course is made up of seven sessions of films and peer-group discussion. It is currently being run by churches in more than 400 communities across the UK.

Is there a spiritual revival going on among our young people?

A leading Roman Catholic professor of Pastoral Theology at the University of Vienna thinks that this may well be so. For the Revd Paul Zulehner says that while Church is still losing young people, it is also gaining them. “We’re clearly witnessing a protest against mainstream secularisation, as groups of youngsters yearn for re-spiritualisation or re-enchantment. Many are looking for meaning beyond material success, when such perceptions have become enfeebled in our pluralistic societies.”

Professor Zulehner was speaking to the *Church Times* after the recent Roman Catholic Church’s *Jubilee of Youth*, which attracted a million-strong gathering in Rome, led by Pope Leo XIV.

Meanwhile, in Britain, Youth for Christ, an international evangelical youth ministry, has reported that weekly church attendance by young people had doubled from four to eight percent in five years. YFC said that half of young people were now declaring a belief in God, and 96 per cent express an openness to “supernatural experience”.

Editor: by Canon Paul Hardingham

The Friend at Midnight

As we remember St Luke this month, let's note that one of the major themes in his gospel is prayer. Jesus tells the *Parable of the Friend at Midnight* (Luke 11:5-8) in the context of teaching His disciples to pray (1).

Pray Shamelessly:

In the parable a man approaches his friend at midnight and asking: *'Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'* (5-6). Despite the hour, the rules of hospitality mean that this is not an unreasonable request. Jesus says, *'though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will rise and give him whatever he needs'* (8). Jesus is telling us to approach our heavenly Father in *'shameless boldness'* with our needs. As adopted children we should have no hesitancy in coming to talk with our Father. It is not God who is reluctant to answer, but we to ask. Do we pray with shameless boldness?

Pray Persistently:

Like children we should be persistent in our requests: *'Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.'* (9). All three verbs indicate a continual habit: *'Keep on asking...seeking...knocking'*. We will not be content simply to ask once and then move on. Jesus tells us to bring our prayers to God persistently. Do we give up too easily in prayer?

Pray Expectantly:

'For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.' (10). Are we expectant in our prayers, believing that God delights in meeting our requests? Why not begin this adventure of prayer today!

HALF OUR MISTAKES IN LIFE ARISE
FROM FEELING WHERE WE OUGHT TO
THINK, AND THINKING WHERE WE OUGHT
TO FEEL. -

J CHURTON COLLINS

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham continues his series on the books of the Bible

What's the Big Idea? - An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: Galatians

Paul's letter to the Galatians has been described as the '*Magna Carta of Christian Liberty*', because it emphasises the freedom that we have through faith in Jesus Christ. Paul vigorously defends the truth that people are justified ('*made right with God*') by faith in Jesus Christ alone. Our standing with God is not determined by what we do, but by dependence on what Christ has done. It is generally believed that Paul wrote this letter in 48/9AD to the churches in the southern area of Galatia, which he planted on his first missionary journey. It was written before the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15), making it the earliest of Paul's letters. Paul is dealing with Jewish-Christians (or Judaizers) who were advocating ceremonial practices of the Jewish law, including circumcision, in addition to faith in Christ as the means of salvation. They were undermining Paul's authority as an apostle, by asserting that his gospel didn't agree with the apostles in Jerusalem.

In response, Paul defends his apostolic authority and presents the true gospel, by emphasising the unique importance of Christ and His cross in salvation. He argues that '*a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ*' (2:16). He appeals especially to the examples of Abraham (3:6-9) and Hagar and Sarah (4:21-31), who stand in contrast as being a 'slave' under the law and 'free' in Christ.

'It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.' (5:1).

We are justified through faith alone and it is by faith alone that we live out our new life in the freedom of the Spirit.

Editor: David Pickup, a solicitor, considers Harvest Festivals.

Let Him lead me to the banquet hall, and let His banner over me is love.

Song of Songs 2:4

I like a good harvest festival. '*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*', '*For the Fruits of His Creation*', '*Now Thank We All Our God*' and my favourite, '*We Plough the Fields and Scatter*', the last one is not everyone's favourite but I like it. It reminds me of school assembly and teacher who pointed out the words sound like ploughing fields and then running away. I can remember the fields near where I lived and seeing the tractor followed by flocks of birds, eager for food.

Harvest is about being thankful for God's provision and how the harvest, in this part of the world at least, never fails. No matter how dry or wet the growing seasons are, we always get a harvest.

I enjoy a good harvest lunch. We used to have really good ones in the parish, and it brought out people who were not regular church goers but occasional attenders, mainly when food was on the table. I like a buffet because you can choose what you want and how much of it, and if you are clever, you can get two helpings. My advice is let the polite people go first, as they eat little and then go for it when most people have had their fill. No! don't be greedy but do tuck in and make sure you help others.

God invites us to a banquet where there is plenty to eat for everyone and everyone makes sure all have their fill.

Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White considers ...

Reflecting Faith: Glory to God

For the last few months we've been looking at the way that church services are put together.

Last time we looked at how we begin by recognising how great and amazing God is, and therefore apologise for all the things we've done wrong – or should have done and haven't – in the light of His 'perfection'.

We then receive God's forgiveness.

At this point, recognising how gracious and forgiving God is, we are asked to rise from our knees and stand together to give 'Glory to God'.

Known in Latin as '*The Gloria*'.

You will recognise those words from those spoken by the angels announcing the birth of Christ to the shepherds on the hills over Bethlehem:

"Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to people of good will" (Luke 2:15)

Traditionally this 'angelic hymn' has been sung and begins with praise to God the Father. It then asks for the mercy from God the Son, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

The final lines soar into the blinding mystery of the Trinity: 'Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father'. Because it is so full of joy it is not included in worship during Advent and Lent.

Because this hymn is so special over the years there have been limitations on who was allowed to sing or recite it. At first it was only bishops and then in the 11th century priests were allowed to do so.

Now we all sing or say it together. That means we take our place in our Christian heritage alongside those angels singing or saying it each week.

God in the Arts

Editor: the Revd Michael Burgess surveys works of sacred art that can be found in various museums.

He gave us eyes to see them': Lucas Cranach's 'Adam and Eve'

In October we traditionally give thanks for the good gifts of God's creation at harvest time. In the readings for our worship, we often return to that original goodness in the Garden of Eden, described for us in the opening chapters of Genesis. We glimpse that scene of paradisaical harmony in Lucas Cranach's painting 'Adam and Eve.' It shows a wonderful menagerie of birds and animals around the couple, all unaware that the harmony will be shattered as Adam takes the apple from Eve.

One version of this painting is in the Courtauld Gallery of Somerset House in London. It is a large, neoclassical building by the Strand in the centre of the city. In the summer months 55 fountains play in the courtyard outside, while in the winter people skate on the ice rink. Somerset House was built on the site of a Tudor palace and dates from the 18th century. It is now a centre for the visual arts with an impressive collection of paintings.

Lucas Cranach, this month's artist, was born in 1472 in what is now Bavaria. He became a court painter to the Electors of Saxony until his death in 1553. Cranach was a close friend



of Martin Luther, but also had Catholic patrons. Like the Electors, they marvelled at his mastery of landscape and animals. In this painting we are invited into the garden to look on all the beauty and wonder there. Among the animals we can see a hog, a lion (although Cranach would never have seen a lion in the flesh), a sheep, and a stag, a symbol of Christ. There are birds as well, including a pair of partridges, who traditionally represent the power of love, but also deceit. The roe deer drinking from the pool in the foreground is a reminder of Psalm 42 and the soul thirsting for God. But dominating the scene is that moment of turning from God: there is a glorious tree, laden

with fruit, and in front Adam and Eve, whose hands clutch an apple, while the serpent slithers down the trunk in a moment of triumph.

The painting is reminiscent of medieval tapestries and, like them, has a beguiling quality. All is beautiful and harmonious: it is Isaiah's vision of the lion lying down with the lamb amid the fruitfulness of nature and the oneness of creation. As we look on, we know that the defiance of God and the temptation to eat will lose this paradise. But we also know that creation will be redeemed by another fruit. Around Adam and Eve are the vine and grapes: they represent the Eucharist, the gift of Christ's body and blood. The fruit of the tree in the painting leads to a fall from grace, but the fruit from that other tree, the vine, will redeem and lift humanity again to share in the bread and wine, the gifts of creation given at harvest and shared at every Holy Communion.

God in the Sciences

Editor: This series is written by Dr Ruth Bancewicz, who is based at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Continuing the Celebration!

On 6th-13th October this year many people around the world will be celebrating the Jewish festival of Tabernacles, or Sukkot. They will celebrate the Harvest, and also remember God bringing the Israelites out of Egypt and through 40 years in the desert. The biblical book of Deuteronomy contains a description of what Tabernacles should have been like back then. "Celebrate... for seven days. Be joyful... you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levites, the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns."

These festivals were not just a celebration, but also an expression of gratitude to God: "celebrate the festival to the Lord your God...For the Lord your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete." Tabernacles was a proper holiday, with two whole days off normal work and seven days of feasting. Farming looks very different today. Very few of us have had to sweat long hours over crops, so we're not as ready for (or deserving of) a rest and a party as our ancestors were at this time of year. That might be even more the case in future, as the agri-tech revolution unfolds. For example, small autonomous tractors are already becoming available that do less damage to the soil and make better use of steep or oddly shaped fields.

Many arable farms already hire contractors to do the routine work with large specialist GPS-equipped machinery. In future years those people might find themselves using very different kinds of high-tech kit, acting more as land-management advisors, helping farmers to gather data and to find ways of improving soil quality, biodiversity and the water cycle. I'm very grateful for the food that arrives on my shelves. Instead of worrying about whether or not we earned it, our modern-day Tabernacles or Harvest celebration could include ways of encouraging those involved in agriculture and developing new agricultural technologies, as well as enjoying how we can learn about and benefit from God's creation through Science.

So, after you celebrate Harvest at church, why not follow it up with a trip to a local farm this month? Why not learn from the ancient Israelites, and follow it up with a meal together? It stands to reason that those of us who live in countries where food is plentiful and cheap could do with being proportionately more generous in our gratitude and giving. Should we throw better parties? Probably!

Editor: David Pickup, a solicitor, offers some general advice on what to do when you are not happy about something...

Complaints – how do you make them effective?

I cried unto the LORD with my voice;... I poured out my complaint before Him; I shewed before Him my trouble. (Psalm 142:1,2 KJV)

Perhaps it is a British thing, but we do not like to complain, do we? But the psalmist was not British, so he did not mind complaining – even to God, we are told. Nowadays, most large organisations, especially public bodies, want us to complain if something is wrong, because good service standards are important. They have well designed complaints systems and independent ombudsmen to oversee it all.

The first thing is to try to resolve an issue informally. If this has not worked, use the proper procedure. You can probably find how to on the company's website.

Be precise about what you are complaining about. Be clear – use account numbers, references and dates. Put in the names of persons involved, if you know them. Do not leave it too long because most procedures have deadlines.

Keep it short, simple and to the point. Ask a friend to look at it first, to make sure they understand what you are complaining about. Be firm but polite and business-like – you are more likely to be listened to. It may be helpful to use numbered points, in date order. Keep a note of dates. Be reasonable. It may be an apology will suffice, but do not be fobbed off.

Think about what outcome you want. Is it an apology? If so, get a genuine apology. If you are told “we are sorry you felt let down” that is not an apology; “We let you down” is. Perhaps you want the organisation to change their ways so something bad does not happen to other people.

And another thing: if you get a good service from someone, tell the company. It might make their day.

GENUINE ART WAS NEVER
CREATED FOR ITS OWN
SAKE, IT WAS ALWAYS A
MEANS OF WORSHIP, AN
AFFIRMATION OF BELIEF, AN
ASPIRATION POINTING
BEYOND ITSELF. THE
BEAUTY OF ART IS
REFLECTED BEAUTY. -
THOMAS MOLNAR

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Judges 6:36 - 7:8, 16-22

God had told Gideon he would drive the Midianite invaders out of His country. 32000 men had come to fight with Gideon.

Gideon asked God for proof.



God did as Gideon had asked.



Could you show me again, but with the wool dry and the ground wet?



God said
The army is too big. They will think that they beat the Midianites, not Me.



So Gideon sent home all who were afraid - 22000 of them



There were still too many, so Gideon told them to drink from the spring.



300 scooped up water to drink, and the rest were sent home.



Each man was given a jar with a lit torch in it and a horn.



That night they surrounded the Midianite camp.



At the signal, they blew the trumpets, smashed the jars and shouted a war cry



The Midianites were so shocked they attacked each other, and then ran



The Israelites won without having to do any fighting.

Miscellaneous

As you tidy your garden for winter...

Gardens are preparing to go to sleep, but next Spring will soon be here. So why not consider some changes now:

- ~ Install a water butt now, to store up the winter rain for the Spring.
- ~ Reduce the hard standing in your garden. Instead, let rain soak into the soil, rather than go down a drain.
- ~ Plant something tall to create shade in your garden next year – the soil will remain wetter.
- ~ Put in more plants – the more you have, the more protection they give the ground. Try to use native species, as your local wildlife depends on them.
- ~ Consider adding a pond – it will be a great boost to your local wildlife!

Plastic carrier bags

This year marks ten years since England introduced the 5p charge for single-use plastic carrier bags. The charge has had a dramatic effect – with a reduction of 98% in sales.

In 2014, 7.6 billion single-use plastic bags were sold in the UK. By 2023, 133 million single-use bags had been sold in the major supermarkets. The average person in the UK now buys only about two single-use plastic bags per year.

Resources for holding a Christian Halloween ‘Light Party’

Do you have children wanting a Halloween party this autumn? Why not offer instead a Light Party on the same night? They can still dress up in costumes, but the emphasis of the party will be far more positive.

For resources, visit the Eden website at: <https://www.eden.co.uk/halloween-light-party-resources> . It offers light party resources, Christian gifts, tracts and crafts for every light party, outreach events and to share with trick-or-treaters.

Miscellaneous

All in the month of OCTOBER

It was:

750 years ago, on 27th Oct 1275 that the city of Amsterdam in the Netherlands is traditionally considered to have been founded.

200 years ago, on 25th Oct 1825 that Johann Strauss II, was born. This Austrian composer is best known for his waltzes, including *The Blue Danube*.

125 years ago, on 20th Oct 1900 that the American aviation pioneers the Wright Brothers made their first untethered glider flight at Kill Devil Hills, in North Carolina.

100 years ago, on 13th Oct 1925 that Margaret Thatcher, Baroness Thatcher, was born. She was the first woman Prime Minister of Britain (1979-90). (Died 2013.)

90 years ago, on 12th Oct 1935 that Luciano Pavarotti, Italian operatic tenor, was born. Considered one of the finest tenors of the 20th century, and one of the most commercially successful of all time. (Died 2007.)

80 years ago, on 12th Oct 1945 that US Army combat medic Desmond Doss became the first conscientious objector in US history to receive a Medal of Honour for heroic actions. He saved the lives of 75 men during the Battle of Okinawa. The film *Hacksaw Ridge* told his story.

65 years ago, on 12th Oct 1960 that, at a meeting of the UN General Assembly in New York, the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev is reported to have removed his shoe and pounded his table, in protest at a speech by another delegate.

60 years ago, on 8th Oct 1965 that the Post Office Tower (now the BT Tower) in London was officially opened. It was the tallest building in the UK until 1980.

40 years, on 26th Oct 1985 that the Australian government returned the ownership of Uluru / Ayers Rock to the local Pitjantjatjara people, on condition that they lease it to the National Parks and Wildlife Agency for 99 years and allow it to be jointly managed.

20 years ago, on 3rd Oct 2005 that Ronnie Barker, TV comedian, actor and writer, died. Known for *The Frost Report*, *The Two Ronnies*, *Porridge*, *Going Straight* and *Open All Hours*.

15 years ago, on 13th Oct 2010 that 33 Chilean miners who had been trapped underground for 69 days following the collapse of the San Jose copper-gold mine were rescued. Around one billion TV viewers around the world watched them being pulled to the surface one-by-one, in a specially designed capsule.

Miscellaneous

Editor: by Tim Lenton

Those magnificent men in their flying machine...

It was 125 years ago, on 20th October 1900, that the American aviation pioneers the Wright Brothers made their first untethered glider flight at Kill Devil Hills in North Carolina.

This was a key moment in the history of aviation, although their first powered flight of a heavier-than-air aircraft came three years later, on 17th December 1903, also at Kill Devil Hills, which is near Kitty Hawk.

Orville and Wilbur Wright, who lived in Dayton, Ohio – more than 600 miles from Kitty Hawk – were the sons of a bishop in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, and were both named after clergymen. However, they became inventive mechanics and owned a bicycle shop at a time when cycling was becoming safer and popular. They chose the Kitty Hawk area for flight attempts, based on advice from the US Weather Bureau.

There had been many unpowered glider flights in Europe before, and the Wrights, who were in their thirties, were particularly impressed by the successful German pioneer Otto Lilienthal, who had been killed in 1896. The Wrights' big leap forward, however, was a system of three-axis controls that made fixed-wing powered flight possible. It enabled the pilot to steer the aircraft and maintain its equilibrium. It remains standard on aircraft today.

Flying changed the world for us all. It had long been a dream, dating back at least as far as the Greek legend of Icarus and Daedalus, and including kite-flying in China and ballooning in 18th-century France, with the Montgolfier brothers. A small piece of the Wright Flyer is now on Mars – a piece of cloth attached to a small but active reconnaissance helicopter called *Ingenuity*.

MAN IS THE ONLY ANIMAL THAT
BLUSHES. OR NEEDS TO.
- MARK TWAIN

Editor: by Tim Lenton

The Iron Lady of Britain

One hundred years ago, on 13th October 1925, Margaret Thatcher, Baroness Thatcher of Kesteven, was born. She was the first woman Prime Minister of Britain (1979-90).

Her father, Alfred Roberts, was a grocer and Methodist local preacher in Grantham, and she was brought up as a strict Wesleyan Methodist. At one point just before the Second World War, the family gave sanctuary to a young Jewish girl who had escaped the Nazis.

Margaret later became a lay preacher herself, and was married at Wesley's Chapel in City Road, London, where her children were baptised. Afterwards she and her husband Denis (later Sir Denis) attended Church of England services and became Anglicans. She felt her policies as a Conservative aligned closely with Christianity.

She was the longest-serving Prime Minister of the 20th century and, partly because of her resilience, aroused strong feelings both for and against, having to weather difficulties and misjudgements, such as the poll tax. Those opposing her described her policies as 'Thatcherism', but others put a positive slant on this. Her nickname of Iron Lady – first used by a Soviet journalist – aptly described her leadership style and lack of compromise.

Before becoming Prime Minister, she had studied chemistry at Oxford, and then the law, qualifying as a barrister. She became an MP – for Finchley – in 1959 and progressed to Secretary of State for Education and Science before defeating Edward Heath in the 1975 Tory leadership election, making her leader of the Opposition and the first woman to lead a major UK political party.

When she arrived at Downing Street, she adapted a prayer of St Francis beginning "Where there is discord, may we bring harmony". She died from a stroke while staying at the Ritz Hotel in London in 2013 at the age of 87, having been unwell for some years.

Editor: by Tim Lenton

The brave Desmond Doss of Hacksaw Ridge

Eighty years ago, on 12th October 1945, US Army combat medic Desmond Doss became the first conscientious objector in US history to receive a Medal of Honour for heroic actions. He saved the lives of 75 men during the Battle of Okinawa. The film *Hacksaw Ridge* told his story.

Doss was born in Virginia in 1919, and became a strong believer in the Bible, especially the Ten Commandments. As a devout Seventh Day Adventist and conscientious objector, he determined to join the Army after Pearl Harbour – his goal being to save as many lives as possible, and to kill no-one.

He enlisted as a medic and refused to carry a rifle, despite receiving abuse from his fellow soldiers and officers. This diminished when it became clear that he bore no grudges and was the first to help when anyone got into difficulty.

He served in combat on the islands of Guam, Leyte, and Okinawa – but it was the last that was most remarkable, because the fighting took place on the top of a sheer 400ft cliff with booby traps and hidden machine gun nests. Doss refused to retreat with his battalion and kept on returning to the battlefield before lowering injured comrades down the cliff (known as Hacksaw Ridge). He thought he had saved 50 men – praying aloud each time “Lord, please help me get one more”. His comrades thought he had saved 100: the official report split the difference.

Of the 16 million Americans in uniform during World War Two, only 431 received the Congressional Medal of Honour. Before leaving the Army Doss had contracted tuberculosis, and eventually he had to have a lung and five ribs removed. He lived with one lung to the age of 87.

**I NOT ONLY USE ALL THE BRAINS I HAVE,
BUT ALL I CAN BORROW. - WOODROW
WILSON (US PRESIDENT 1913-1921)**



"Good news on the lottery-funding for the organ repairs, Vicar – three of our numbers came up for £25!"



After his induction, Harry met the leaders of the other denominations

THE CHURCH IS A
WORKSHOP, NOT A
DORMITORY. -
ALEXANDER MACLAREN

Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22,23, Ps 34:8)

Opportunities
To ripen your fruit in our lives,
Lord, give us opportunities.

To grow in Your Spirit,
Know Your warmth
And Your light,
Allow the segments of
Self-control, gentleness,
Faithfulness, goodness,
Kindness, patience, peace and joy.

To be lubricated and sweetened
By love,
Showing the world
Your nature transforming
Our natures,
In the fruit bowl of our lives
In Jesus.

Lord give opportunities
For the hungry to taste
Your ripening fruit in us,
See that You are good
And come to you.

By Daphne Kitching



Wear out

Three little boys were bragging about how tough they were. "I'm so tough," said the first boy, "that I can wear out a pair of shoes in a week."

"Well," said the second little boy, "I'm so tough, I can wear out a pair of jeans in a day."

"That's nothing," said the third boy. "When my parents take me to see my grandma and grandpa, I can wear them out in just one hour."

If you understand it...

When you get to the point where you really understand your computer, it's probably obsolete.

All Angels?

The slightly harassed minister stood on the railway station platform with a number of lively Sunday School children, while the two Sunday School teachers went off to buy tickets. A porter came up to him and asked: "Excuse me, are you St Michael and all the Angels?"

Bye bye

Our lay preacher is from France and occasionally amuses us with using words slightly out of context. One morning, coming to the end of a long sermon, he solemnly assured us: "Just a few more words, and then I will definitely de-cease."

Where two or three are gathered...

A lady was describing the small attendance at her local church. "We were so few last Sunday that when the vicar began 'Dearly beloved,' I blushed."

Cheap at the price

A little boy was pestering his parents for a baby brother or sister. They kept telling him 'maybe one day, but we can't afford one yet.' Then one Sunday the little boy dragged his parents over to the noticeboard at the back of church. It was advertising a coming sale at the church and announced: 'Children: free'.

Golf

A golf player is a person who can drive 70 miles an hour in traffic with perfect ease, but who goes to pieces on a two-foot putt if somebody coughs.

Picture Parable

The tale of
the
Tower
Builder

BUILDING
SITE
FOR SALE


